

OCT 11 2006

PATENT  
Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0132**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 11, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 11, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, and 12-15 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 4-6, 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and new claims 13-15 have been added. No new matter has been added by either the amendments or new claims. Claims 13-15 are claims 3, 5 and 11, respectively, redrafted in independent form (before current amendment to claims 1 and 7).

***Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Leismer* (US 6,247,536). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 6 (with minor modification of removing "means of a") and claim 7 has been amended to incorporate claim 8. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***Claim Objection***

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant believes the objection is now moot because the base claims are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

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Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0132***Conclusion***

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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